

This 3 page document attempts to summarise my views on some of the issues. It will take you no more than 10 minutes to read but about 45 minutes if you read or watch the material at the various links.

The positive case for a Yes vote has long been made in my view but it's been met with negativity. Some of that needs countered so I will present **FACT** then **COMMENT** on each issue other than where facts are based solely on the opinion of others.

Democracy

FACT In my lifetime, Scotland has only ever voted for the Conservatives once but for years we have had a UK government dominated by Conservatives. Even when we did get the government we voted for, the reverse applied and people in England and Wales got a government, Labour, that they didn't vote for. Scottish MPs can still vote on matters that only affect England.

COMMENT A Yes vote sorts this for Scotland **and** England. A Yes vote will give us all a much improved democracy.

Currency

FACT Scotland will use the pound after independence simply because nobody can stop us so doing. This has now been confirmed by the No campaign.

FACT Scotland has long had a balance of trade surplus, even without oil. The UK overall has a deficit. The rest of the UK will have a big trade deficit if Scotland becomes independent.

COMMENT These 2 facts probably mean that despite what the No campaign are saying, a formal currency union will happen. If it doesn't, then Scotland could peg the pound to the rUK pound or it could let it float. The trade surplus Scotland has would put real strain on the pegged pound as the rUK pound would come under pressure in the markets due to its large trade deficit. That is why most commentators are sure a formal currency union is what rUK will be forced into no matter what they say now.

NHS

Allyson Pollock, professor of public health research and policy at Queen Mary University in London said "the clearest way to defend and promote the principle of a public NHS is to vote for Scotland to have full powers and responsibilities of an independent country." If you want to hear more, listen to Dr Philippa Whitford, a

doctor in a hospital in Ayrshire. She's at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esV6pGo8UTI> and it is worth the 15 minute watch.

PUBLIC FINANCES WITH A NO VOTE

FACT Yesterday, 1 September, I attended a seminar for councillors on the continued austerity programme of the UK government. The UK settlement to Scotland as per George Osborne is for the next 2 years to be a flat cash settlement. This means, after inflation is taken into account, at least a 2% to 3% cut in public sector funding.

COMMENT If we "protect" health and education with a standstill budget it would mean huge cuts to all other public services in Scotland. It might even force us to charge for university fees as they do in England, £9k per annum remember.

FACT In the 3 years from 2016, they plan to cut the Scottish budget by 2% cash per year taking £5bn out of the budget. This equates to 4% to 5% real terms cuts each year.

COMMENT We are powerless to do anything about this because Labour have committed themselves to follow Osborne's cuts. So, it matters not a hoot what UK government we get in in 2015, Scotland will be given the same medicine. The only possible alternative is a Yes vote.

FACT What is our money being spent on? 2 items spring to mind. One is the recent all party (UK parties that is) commitment to renewing Trident. Their estimate is that this will cost £160bn, or £4bn per year for the next 40 years They will also continue to fund the House of Lords at £45m per annum.

FACT The cost of Trident would fund 3.2 million full time jobs OR the cost of every accident and emergency unit in the UK for the next 64 years OR pay for the building of 48,000 new primary schools.

COMMENT A No vote is a yes to Trident, the House of Lords and a vote against spend on our people and the services they really need and want. A Yes vote means we do not need to pay our share of this waste.

THE CULTURE WE BUY INTO WITH A NO VOTE

FACT The No campaign is funded largely by dirty money. Just read <http://nationalcollective.com/2013/04/07/dirty-money-the-tory-millionaire-bankrolling-better-together/>

FACT Alastair Darling who fronts the No campaign, has a past he would rather not tell anyone about. Just read Derek Bateman, former BBC Radio Scotland journalist at: <http://derekbateman.co.uk/2014/07/28/we-are-world-class/>

The war in Iraq was based on lies and the effect has been a hugely increased cost both in security costs and direct military costs. Nobody is sure of the numbers but the government does admit Iraq cost us in excess of £10bn but there is a widespread view that increased internal security costs that we all encounter have cost twice that. Did any of us agree to spend £30bn on this?

We have created chaos in the Middle East and fear at home. If you don't believe me, and if you don't believe how corrupt a country the UK has become, listen to the former UK ambassador to Uzbekistan, Craig Murray. The short clip at the link below spells it out: <http://youtu.be/CIQ8VVn8AJA>

COMMENT I do not want to have these kinds of people fund political campaigns. I do not want someone like Darling who has hugely enriched himself through dodgy expense claims telling me how better we are together. Most of all I don't want to be tarred with the same brush as the politicians and Westminster establishment who lie to us, promote illegal wars and expose us to immense danger.

SUMMARY

A Yes vote is a vote to enable us to change things. Life doesn't have to be endless austerity.

The top 3 referendum questions answered	
Your question	The clear answer
Can we keep the £?	"Of course we can use the £" <i>Alistair Darling, No campaign leader, BBC 25 August 2014</i>
Will my pension be secure?	"If Scotland does become independent this will have no effect on your State Pension, you will continue to receive it just as you do at present" <i>UK government Pensions Service, 4 January 2013</i>
Can we afford it?	"An independent Scotland could also expect to start with healthier state finances than the rest of the UK" <i>Financial Times, 2 February 2014</i>

- YES means getting the government you vote for, every time.
- YES means an alternative to Westminster austerity.
- YES means nurses and child care instead of £160bn spent on Trident.
- YES means no bedroom tax and no punishing of the poor and disabled.
- YES means not paying towards the £45m a year for the useless House of Lords.
- YES means full job creating powers.
- YES will protect the funding for our NHS.
- YES puts the future in our hands.

Michael Breslin, 2 September 2014